

Appln. No.: 09/820,401
Amendment Dated September 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 21, 2005

MATP-601US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-4, 7-13, 16, 17, and 19 are pending in the above identified application. Claims 5, 6, 14, 15, 18 and 20 are canceled by this amendment. Claims 1 and 16 are amended to include the limitations of claims 5 and 6 and claim 11 is amended to include the limitations of claims 14 and 15. Applicants note that some subject matter has been deleted from claims 1, 11 and 16, this subject matter was added in response to the Office Action dated November 24, 2004. In this Office Action it was also indicated that claims 6 and 15 were objected to only as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Accordingly, the deletion of this subject matter does not affect the patentability of claims 1, 11 and 16.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 16, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Lange, Boll and Hauptman et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1, and 16. In the Office Action it was indicated that claims 6 and 15 were objected to only as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten to be independent in form and to include the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claim. As claims 1 and 16 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 5 and 6, claims 1 and 16 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2 and 4 depend from claim 1 and claims 17 and 19 depend from claim 16. Accordingly, these claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 3 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Lang, Boll, Hauptman and Ortega. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1 and 16. As set forth above, with these amendments, claims 1 and 16 are in condition for allowance. Claims 3 and 18 depend from claims 1 and 16, respectively and, thus, claims 3 and 18 are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 16.

Claims 5, 11, 12, 14 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Lang, Boll, Hauptman and Ditzik. This ground for rejection is overcome by the cancellation of claims 5, 14 and 20 and by the amendment to claim 11. As set forth above, claim 11 is amended to include the limitations of claims 14 and 15. In the Office Action, it was indicated that claim 15 was objected to only as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be in condition for allowance if amended to include the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claim. As Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 14

Appln. No.: 09/820,401
Amendment Dated September 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 21, 2005

MATP-601US

and 15, it is in condition for allowance. Claim 12 depends from claim 11 and, so, is in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Lang, Boll, Hauptman, Ditzik and Ortega. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendment to claim 11. As set forth above, with these amendments, claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Because claim 13 depends from claim 11, it is in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the statement in the Office Action that claims 7-10 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-4, 11-13, 16, 17 and 19.

Respectfully submitted,



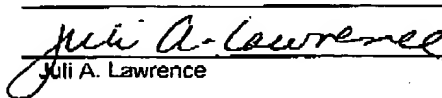
Kenneth N. Nigon, Reg. No. 31,549
Attorney for Applicant

Dated: September 20, 2005

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (571)273-8300 on:
September 20, 2005


Juli A. Lawrence

TMB_I:\MATP\601US\Draft\FINALAMEND.DOC